

Message Text

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51
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00

AID-05 OPIC-03 IO-10 EUR-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01

STR-04 /092 W
----- 052898

P R 062136Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9962
INFO DIA WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, HO
SUBJECT: CONTINUING PRESS COVERAGE OF GOH CHANGE AND UB SCANDAL

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 1798, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 5241, DEC 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: COVERAGE OF THE MELGA
GOVERNMENT CONTINUES
AT A MODERATE PACE WHILE LOPEZ AND UB RECEIVE SCANT ATTEN-
TION. APPARENTLY HIRED JOURNALISTS STILL DEFEND LOPEZ
AND ATTACK UB. DELEGATIONS FROM NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA
CALLED ON MELGAR MAY5. THE GOH WILL MAINTAIN ITS CUBA
POLICY. THE CUBAN ROLANDO MERUELO MAKES ANOTHER APPEARANCE
IN THE HONDURAN PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. EL DIA OF MAY 5 REPORTS DISSATISFACTION IN THE
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HONDURAN BAR ASSOCIATION (COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS) KWECAUSE
THE MELGAR GOVERNMENT MADE ITS APPOINTMENTS TO THE
JUDICIARY WITHOUT THE CUSTOMARY CLEARANCE BY THE
ASSOCIATION. THE LAWYERS' GROUP IS ALSO UNHAPPY BECAUSE

MANY POSITIONS TRADITIONALLY HELD BY LAWYERS HAVE BEEN
FILLED BY PEOPLE WITH NO LEGAL BACKGROUND.

2. EL CRONISTA OF MAY 6 REPORTED THAT AN OFFICIAL
DELEGATION FROM GUATEMALA PAID A COURTESY CALL ON CHIEF
OF STATE MELGAR MAY5. THE DELEGATION WAS COMPOSED OF:
ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES, FONMIN; GENERAL FAUSTO DAVID RUBIO,
MINDEF; EDUARDO PALOMA ESCOBAR, MINECON; AND SEVERAL
OTHERS. EL CRONISTA QUOTES MOLINA AS SAYING THAT THE
NEXT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS WILL TAKE
PLACE IN COSTA RICA AT A STILL UNDETERMINED DATE. MOLINA
ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT GUATEMALA DID NOT LIKE TO SEE
DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN SISTER REPUBLICS AND SAID THAT HIS
COUNTRY WOULD SERVE AS A BRIDGE TO HELP HONDURAS AND EL
SALVADOR RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES. GENERAL FAUSTO
DAVID RUBIO ADMITTED THAT THE GOH HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT
THE EVENTS IN HONDURAS BUT THAT ALL DOUBTS WERE DISSIPATED
WHEN A DELEGATION LED BY FONMIN GALVEZ WENT TO GUATEMALA
TO EXPLAIN THAT THE GOH HAD MERELY BEEN RESTRUCTURED.
THE GOH DELEGATION REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO GUATEMALA
MAY 5 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITS VISIT. LA PRENSA OF
MAY 6 REPORTED THAT CARLOS DUBON, NICARAGUAN MINISTER OF
THE PRESIDENCY, MADE A COURTESY CALL ON MELGAR MAY 5. THE
VISIT WAS TO RECIPROCATRE FOR A VISIT TO NICARAGUA BY THE
HONDURAN DELEGATION LED BY FONMIN GALVEZ. DUBON REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT THE NEXT MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS
WOULD BE HELD WITHIN 20 DAYS.

3. EL CRONISTA, UNDER THE HEADLINE, "TOTAL , NOTHING,
NOTHING, NOTHING," PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION BY
THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION DATED MAY 4 IN ZURICH,
SWITZERLAND. THE DECLARATION SAYS THAT THE COMMISSION
SPOKE WITH MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN WASHINGTONAND RECEIVED
"ABUNDANT" INFORMATION. TO CONFIRM THAT INFORMATION IT
WAS NECESSARY TO GO TO SWITZERLAND WHERE THE COMMISSION
HAS RECEIVED THE COOPERATION OF SWISS OFFICIALS TO THE
LIMIT OF SWISS LAW. WHEN THE COMMISSION RETURNS TO
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HONDURAS A FULL REPORT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.

4. IN AN EDITORIAL IN ITS MAY 6 EDITION, CONSERVATIVE
LA PRENSA COMMENTED THAT THE EUROPEAN PRESS HAS REPORTED
THAT THE GOH INVESTIGATION COMMISSION HAS NOT BEEN
SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING REQUESTED INFORMATION IN SWITZERLAND.
LA PRENSA NOTED THAT NO COUNTRY HAS EVER BEEN SUCCESSFUL
IN GETTING INFORMATION FROM THE SWISS BANKING AUTHORITIES.
THEREFORE, SINCE LA PRENSA AND THE PUBLIC ANTICIPATED THIS
FAILURE, THE REASONS FOR THE COMMISSIONS'S TRIP TO EUROPE
MUST BE QUESTIONED. LA PRENSA SAID THAT THE HONDURAN PEOPLE
ARE BEGINNING TO LOSE FAITH IN THE COMMISSION AND WARNED

THAT IN THE FINAL REPORT, HALF TRUTHS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. THE PAPER NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD TAKE CARE IN ITS REPORT NOT TO DUPLICATE THE ACTIONS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION WHICH HAD ISSUED A LENGTHY DOCUMENT SAYING NOTHING.

5.

IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL OF MAY 6 LA PRENSA COMMENTED THAT ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT MELGAR MEANT WHAT HE SAID WHEN HE PROMISED HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT. THE PAPER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE GOH'S FUTURE ACTIONS WOULD SUPPORT THAT JUDGEMENT.

6. IN A RADIO INTERVIEW MAY 6, FONMIN VIEGILIO GALVEZ SAID THAT THE GOH WILL MAINTAIN THE SAME POLICY ON THE CUBA SANCTIONS THAT IT HAD AT THE QUITO OAS MEETING, I.E., THAT HONDURAS WOULD VOTE TO SUSPEND SANCTIONS BUT WOULD ABIDE BY THE TWO-THIRDS RULE.

7. THE CASE OF THE CUBAN EXILE ADVISOR TO LA PRENSA, ROLANDO MERUELO, WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED BY THE LOPEZ GOVERNMENT DECEMBER 6, 1974 (REF B), HAS ONCE AGAIN HIT THE FRONT PAGES. APPARENTLY ENCOURAGED BY THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT THE INTERAMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY (SIP) CABLED MELGAR ON APRIL 30 REQUESTING THAT THE GOH PERMIT MERUELO TO RESUME HIS EMPLOYMENT. APPARENTLY, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, MELGAR DID NOT REPLY TO THE CABTRO. THE EMBASSY REGARDS PERMISSION FOR MERUELO TO RETURN AS BEING UNLIKELY.

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8. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT RECENT PRO-LOPEZ, ANTI-UB COMMENTARY IS NOT ACCIDENTAL. GENERAL LOPEZ IS REPORTEDLY FINANCING A CAMPAIGN IN THE HOPES OF BOLSTERING HIS PRESENT POSITION.

SANCHEZ

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GUATEMALA
MANAGUA
SAN JOSE
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